

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT O 01488 242011Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /096 W

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R 241940Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6558

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT OF SPAIN 1488

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT TD GY

SUBJECT: GUYANESE POLITICAL LEADER SPEAKS IN TRINIDAD

1. DR. CHEDDI JAGAN, GUYANESE OPPOSITION PEOPLES PROGRESSIVE PARTY LEADER, GAVE PUBLIC LECTURE IN PORT OF SPAIN FRIDAY EVENING, JUNE 21.

2. LECTURE HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED ON FRONT PAGE OF MORNING PRESS AND WAS HELD IN 800 CAPACITY MEETING HALL OF TRINIDAD'S LARGEST UNION (GOVERNMENT AND FEDERATED WORKERS-NUGFW) IN DOWNTOWN PORT OF SPAIN. ATTENDANCE, HOWEVER, BUMBERED BARELY 100 AND AUDIENCE RESPONSE WAS LACKADAISICAL AT BEST ACCORDING TO EMBOFFS WHO ATTENDED.

3. ALTHOUGH JAGAN WAS ENROUTE BACK TO GUYANA FROM EXTENDED TRIP ABROAD WHICH INCLUDED ATTENDANCE AT HIS SON'S UNIVERSITY GRADUATION IN CALIFORNIA, SPEECH DID NOT DRAW ANY INSIGHTS FROM RECENT TRAVELS AND WAS LARGELY NON-TOPICAL. PRINCIPAL THEME WAS A PRIMER ON MARXISM-LENINISM AND, ALTHOUGH JAGAN SPOKE WELL, LECTURE WAS DATE AND CANNED, APPEARING TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN IN MUCH SAME FORM MANY TIMES BEFORE, POSSIBLE AS EARLY AS THIRTY YEARS AGO.

4. FOR HIS TRINIDAD AUDIENCE JAGAN HAD LITTLE TO SAY ABOUT TRINIDAD SPECIFICALLY, BUT HE DID SPEND FIFTEEN MINUTES CASTIGATING BURNHAM GOVERNMENT IN GUYANA. HE CHARACTERIZED BURNHAM'S

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"COOPERATIVE SOCIALISM" AS A RIGHTEST DEVIATIONISM AND A BETRYAL OF TRUE MARXIST-LENINIST THEORY. HE CLAIMED THAT "FORCE AND

FRAUD" HAD MADE A MOCKERY OF GUYANA'S CONSTITUTION AND WARNED TRINIDADIAN THAT SELECTION OF LEADERS WAS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN CONSTITUTIONAL REVISION. IGNORING IMPACT OF THIS YEAR'S PETROLEUM PRICE INCREASES, HE BLAMED GUYANA'S PRESENT PRECARIOUS FINANCIAL SITUATION ENTIRELY ON FAILURE CORRECTLY TO APPLY MARXIST THEORY. HE ASSERTED THAT COOPERATIVES WOULD NEVER FLOURISH IN TANDEM WITH CAPITALISM BUT COOPERATIVE MOVEMENT COULD ONLY COME INTO ITS OWN IN A SOCIALIST SOCIETY.

5. JAGAN ROUNDLY DENOUNCED THEORY OF CONVERGENCE BETWEEN ADVANCED CAPITALIST AND COMMUNIST STATES, BUT GAVE EXTREMELY GARBLED REASONING FOR HIS POSITION.

6. COMMENT: DR. JAGAN'S APPEARANCE IN TRINIDAD WAS CLOSEST THING TO A NON-EVENT POSSIBLE FOR A POLITICIAN OF SUCH PAST PROMINENCE IN COMMONWEALTH CARIBBEAN. EVEN THE LEADERSHIP OF THE NUGFW WHERE JAGAN SPOKE FAILED TO ATTEND THE SPEECH. A PROMINENT LAWYER HERE (MITRA SINANAN), WHO HAD KNOWN JAGAN WELL PERSONALLY DURING DAYS OF THE FEDERATION, TOLD DCM THAT HE AND OTHERS WHO HAD ONCE SEEN JAGAN OFTEN HAD COMPLETELY DROPPED OUT OF CONTACT WITH HIM AND FELT THAT JAGAN'S WIFE HAD INFLUENCED HIS RADICALISM TO THE POINT OF LOSING CONTACT WITH CURRENT REALITY.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, COMMUNISM, POLITICAL LEADERS, SPEECHES, OPPOSITION PARTIES, LECTURERS, MARXISM, CAPITALISM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CollinP0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PORTO01488
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740166-0184
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740619/aaaaaqgb.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 SEP 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2003 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUYANESE POLITICAL LEADER SPEAKS IN TRINIDAD
TAGS: PINT, TD, GY, (JAGAN, CHEDDI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005